(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The Ganga Cauvery link proposed by Dr K. L. Rao envisages withdrawal of 1680 cumec of the flood flows of the Ganga near Patna for about 150 days in a year and pumping about 1400 cumec for transfer to the peninsular region and utilising the remaining in the southern parts of Ganga basin itself. An area of 4 m.ha. is expected to be brought under irrigation by the scheme.

(b) to (d) As an alternative to the proposal by Dr. K. L. Rao and others, a National Perspective for Water Resources Development has been formulated by the Government envisaging construction of storages and inter-linking of rivers for diversion of surplus waters to deficit regions. It comprises two components viz (i) Himalayan rivers development and (ii) Peninsular rivers development. The latter component is under study by the National Water Development Agency set up by the Government for this purpose.

Research conducted by the all India coordinated research project on ethnobiology

1771. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several thousand wild plants used by the tribals to fight diseases and by several animals and birds species and which serves as their food and energy have been identified by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Ethnobiology (AICRPE);

(b) if so, what are the areas where these researches have been conducted; and

(c) what programmes have been made on the basis of these researches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project covers the tribal areas of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) The findings of the project have been communicated to the State Governments for development of appropriate programmes. A centrally sponsored programme for plantation of minor forest produce including plants with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores has been included in the Seventh Plan.

Selection of trees for replantation

1772. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in our zeal to cover extensive areas under replantation, adequate care is not taken to select the variety of trees/plants that will not only give a green look but will help to improve environment and augment rains;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to faulty selection of plants, people in the hilly areas are developing allergy and some trees are eating away the soil moisture and are also repelling the clouds;

(c) whether any survey has been made by Government in this regard; if so, what are the findings of the survey and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the selection of right type of trees/plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no scientific foundation to the allegation that trees planted under the afforestation Programme in the hilly